

Shamir reaffirms 'new' stand

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday reaffirmed his willingness to give the superpowers or the United Nations a role in launching Middle East peace talks, but stressed they could take no part in direct negotiations. In an hour-long meeting with Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, Shamir reiterated his support for direct talks between Israel, Arab states and Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but ruled out participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "He said Israel is willing to use the assistance of the two superpowers and the U.N. secretary-general, but on the condition they do not intervene in the negotiations," said Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner. Shamir had previously contended that international participants to the proposed Middle East peace conference would be biased against the Zionist state. Last Tuesday, however, Shamir told a group of visiting European parliamentarians that he would consider accepting a symbolic U.N. or superpower opening to peace talks. Arab states have called for active U.N. Security Council role in negotiations. Fernandez Ordonez arrived in Israel Saturday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز بوليتيكي يومية عربية مستقلة
مؤسسة الصحافة الاردنية، الراي

Alami appeals to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chairman of the Jerusalem-based Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Council Sheikh Sa'aduddin Al Alami, who is also head of the Supreme Islamic Council said Sunday that the Israeli authorities were embarking on a new plan where by the holy places under occupation, particularly the Al Aqsa Mosque, will be attached to the Israeli laws and regulations. Alami said such a plan, if implemented, will make the Al Aqsa Mosque and the holy places subject to Israeli laws and regulations. Sheikh Alami called on His Majesty King Hussein to use his good offices to block the Israeli plan. He expressed gratitude and appreciation to King Hussein for his continuous efforts to settle the Palestine question, saying that "no one has done what the King has done to safeguard the Palestine cause."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Iraq to release 200 Iranian PoWs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to arrange for the repatriation of 200 Iranian sick and wounded prisoners of war (PoWs), a Red Cross official said. Arnold Luthold, a deputy of the head of the Red Cross delegation, told the AP that Iraqi officials have asked them to prepare for the release of the Iranian PoWs and return them to Iran. "We think this is a humanitarian gesture which could help to resume the PoW exchange," he said. Luthold said preparations are underway to charter a plane in Switzerland to take the prisoners from Iraq to Iran. The Red Cross official confirmed that the Iraqis have not asked for any Iraqi PoWs in exchange for the Iranians.

Prague police break up crowd

PRAGUE (R) — Riot police attacked thousands of demonstrators with batons, teargas and water cannon Sunday, thwarting a commemoration of Jan Palach who burnt himself alive 20 years ago to protest against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. But after helmeted police with truncheons and albatross dogs charged into Prague's Wenceslas Square, where the ceremony was to be held, more than 4,000 regrouped and marched through the city centre shouting "Freedom, Freedom," "Long live Democracy" and "Truth will prevail." Most of central Prague was cordoned off by police. Armoured personnel carriers rumbled through the capital, tear-gas was sprayed into an underground station where demonstrators had fled and witnesses said a West German television crew was beaten up.

Israelis panic at 'premier's suicide'

TEL AVIV (R) — Hundreds of anxious Israelis called state-owned Israel Radio after hearing excerpts from a play which convinced them that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had committed suicide, the Hadashot daily reported Sunday. The radio aired a scene Saturday from a new play "The Leak," in which an announcer breaks into the narrative and says: "We are obliged to interrupt this broadcast as the prime minister has committed suicide." Although the programme's presenter repeatedly stressed the bulletin was not genuine, hundreds of agitated listeners called the station asking for details, Hadashot said.

KGB seeks cooperation with West

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Radio Moscow statement retrocast here Sunday quoted a top Soviet KGB official as calling for coordination of anti-terror efforts with the United States, Britain and Israel. The unprecedented offer was attributed to Vitaly Ponomarev, deputy chief of the KGB security service. It was first aired by Radio Moscow's Hebrew-language division, "Peace and Progress," Saturday. The report was monitored and recorded by Israel Radio monitor Mickey Gurdus and retransmitted on Israel Radio Sunday. "We are willing, if there is a need, to cooperate even with the CIA, the British intelligence service and the Israeli Mossad and other (intelligence) services in the West," a Soviet announcer quoted Ponomarev as saying.

Iranian party applicants grow

NICOSIA (AP) — The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Sunday said that 28 groups had so far applied to form political parties under a new Iranian law announced Dec. 31. Quoting from the Farsi-language Ettelaat daily, IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia, said that the Freedom Movement and the Mujahedeen-Khalq movement were among the applicants.

Arab ministers to discuss medicine production

TUNIS (R) — Arab health ministers will meet in Libya in March to discuss cooperation in the production of medicines, an Arab League source said Sunday. The source told Reuters that Mahdi Mustapha Al Hedi, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, was now in Tripoli to make arrangements for the conference from March 20 to 22.

Bomb threat on Olympic Airways

LARNACA (AP) — An Olympic Airways jumbo jet landed in Cyprus Sunday after a bomb threat aborted its flight from Athens to Bangkok, Thailand, airport sources said here. The sources said the flight, OA 437, carried 421 passengers and crew. It left Athens at 0743 local (0543 GMT). About an hour later a message was phoned to local Olympic Airways' office in Athens saying there was a bomb aboard the flight piloted by the Nov. 17 Movement. The pilot was ordered by Olympic to land in Cyprus. Passengers and crew were taken off the Boeing 747 immediately after landing.

Faisal award goes to Egyptian

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Minister of Defence Prince Sultan has announced that the eighth and last winner of the King Faisal Foundation International Award for 1989 is Muhammad Al Ghabzali, a 72-year-old Egyptian, for service to Islam. Nominations in this field are made on basis of achievements in the field of Islamic education. Ghabzali, a Muslim theologian, was born in a Nile Delta village in 1917, and is the author of 40 books, three of which are considered major works. He graduated from Al Azhar University in Cairo in 1941.

TASS apologises for 'miracle' report

MOSCOW (AP) — The official TASS news agency apologised Sunday for mistakenly reporting that six Armenians had been saved after spending 35 days in earthquake rubble, calling its original report a "delusion." TASS correspondents Edward Shakhnazarov and Akop Shakhnazarov wrote: "We were the first to report this, and today (Sunday) we want to offer our apologies to our readers." A painstaking search conducted over the past days did not confirm the story which we would like to believe so much."

Former Belgian premier reported abducted

BRUSSELS (R) — Former Belgian Prime Minister Paul van den Boeynants has been abducted from his Brussels home, Belgian television said Sunday. It said it had received a telephone call from a person claiming to represent the Socialist Revolutionary Brigade saying it had kidnapped 69-year-old Van den Boeynants. The Brussels public prosecutor's office confirmed that Van den Boeynants had vanished from his home Saturday evening and called the disappearance worrying.

Newspaper links Iran-contra figures

ZURICH (AP) — Swiss authorities are investigating whether three main figures in the Iran-contra affair funnelled money into a Zurich-based company named in a huge drug money laundering investigation, a newspaper said Sunday. The mass-circulation Sonntagsblick claimed that investigators in several countries have linked former U.S. air force General Richard Secord, Iranian-born businessman Albert Hakim and Swiss-based American lawyer Willard Zucker to the international illegal drug trade. All are considered by U.S. investigators to be major players in the Iran-contra affair. In the mid-1980s, they "used a network of companies to move funds into the Zurich firm Shakhnazarov trading," Sonntagsblick said. "We believe these are funds used in drug and weapons transactions," the paper quoted an unnamed investigating official as saying. No other sources were cited in the report.

National tree-planting project unveiled on eve of Arbor Day

King calls for public effort to green Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attended an Arbor Day celebration at Kharraneh, 70 kilometres east of Amman, and urged Jordanians to plant trees and contribute to the national effort to green the Kingdom.

Tree planting is part of the efforts to green the country, and all citizens should plant trees everywhere to achieve that goal. King Hussein said in a statement after planting a tree at the site.

The Kharraneh area lies within a semi-desert region where a new radio transmission station was recently set up.

"Arbor Day this year is a dear occasion since it marks the 50th anniversary of planting trees in the Kingdom," King Hussein said in his statement to a group of reporters.

The King said that Jordan had made a good start in tree planting, and would continue the process for greening the whole country.

Senior officials and high-ranking army officers were present at the ceremony in Kharraneh and took part along with the King in planting trees.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, which organised the celebration, said Kharraneh was chosen for the main celebration this year in implementation of a policy to spread trees and

green areas along the eastern districts of Jordan which are mostly semi-desert in nature, and form 90 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom.

The trend to plant trees in the semi-desert regions is also in implementation of resolutions passed by a badia development conference held last year and which called for greening Jordan by the year 2,000.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said a total of 500 dunums of land in the region of Kharraneh was planted with trees during Arbor Day ceremony Sunday.

Due to the very poor rainfall in that region, the ministry has adopted the "contour lines technique" to preserve the largest amount of rain water in the ground, Lawzi said. He said the technique involves covering the root of the plant with small stones

to keep humidity and protect them from the heat.

A total of five million fruit and forest tree saplings will be planted in the Kingdom during Arbor Day celebrations this year, according to Lawzi.

The ministry intends to distribute saplings to the Armed Forces, public organisations, farmers and individuals, he said.

Lawzi said the Ministry of Agriculture had worked out a plan to plant large areas of land with trees, specially in the eastern districts of the Kingdom, and no less than 250,000 dunums of land would be planted in these regions in the next few years.

According to the plan, he said, sides of main roads and the Hamad basin in the far eastern regions near the Iraqi border will also be planted with trees employing the same contour line technique.

King meets Specter

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received U.S. Senator Arlen Specter in a meeting attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the meeting was held soon after the senator's arrival here in the course of a tour of the Middle East.

Specter, a Republican from Pennsylvania, met in Damascus last week with Syrian officials to

discuss Lebanon's political crisis and the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied territories.

Specter also discussed the overall Middle East situation at a meeting with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Before arriving in Damascus, Specter had visited Baghdad and met with government officials.

U.S. embassy sources in Amman said the senator was due to leave Jordan Monday.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and a delegation accompanying him (Petra photo)

East, West reach milestone disarmament, rights package

VIENNA (Agencies) — Negotiators from 35 countries Sunday adopted an ambitious package of disarmament and human rights proposals hailed as a milestone in East-West relations.

A final document at the conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the result of 27 months of tough negotiations, includes the framework for new conventional arms reduction talks and commitments by governments to bolster the right of the individual versus the state.

The one dissenting voice came from Romania, which accepted the package in principle but said it was not bound to implement provisions "to which it does not agree or considers inadequate."

Commenting on the conclusion of the talks, U.S. chief delegate Warren Zimmermann said: "This is an excellent document, one that can play a historic role in the Helsinki process..."

"It is a milestone, an important

milestone, but it is not the end of the process," he told a news conference.

Soviet chief delegate Yuri Kashlev said the CSCE process begun with the signing of the 1975 Helsinki final act "is being elevated to a qualitatively new level unprecedented since Helsinki."

He described the human rights provisions, which underline freedom of movement, religion and information and set specific limits on the time governments can take to process applications to travel, as "a major breakthrough in this area."

Both Kashlev and Zimmermann paid tribute to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his "new thinking" as a key factor in the success of the meeting, which exceeded his expectations.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and their colleagues from 33 other nations

are expected to discuss preparations for the new arms control talks when they converge on Vienna for a closing meeting opening Tuesday.

The celebration was marred by Romania, whose leader Nicolae Ceausescu ordered his delegation only two weeks ago to seek last-minute revisions of 17 human rights provisions, without success.

In a statement during the adoption session the delegation of Romania said:

"Under the pretext of concern for human rights and religious freedom, the concluding document contains provisions not in keeping with the spirit of the Helsinki final act and the realities of the time."

While the West was clearly happy with the human rights concessions from the East, Moscow and its allies expressed satisfaction with the new arms talks.

'Diamond-carrying soldier unwitting Pan Am bomber'

LONDON (Agencies) — Investigators pursuing the bombers of Pan Am's Flight 103 are looking into the possibility that a U.S. soldier unknowingly brought the bomb aboard the jetliner, a newspaper report said Sunday.

The Sunday Express said British and U.S. investigators were acting on U.S. government reports that some U.S. soldiers had been paid to take packages of diamonds to New York.

The Sunday Telegraph said the investigation into Britain's worst air disaster is being hampered by the recovery of baggage from the wreckage which cannot be matched with anyone on board the plane.

It said Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, working with Scottish police, also believes that luggage belonging to passengers who died was mistakenly placed on other flights.

"The implications of this are causing investigators grave concern," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"Police believe that matching luggage to victims is an essential first step towards tracing the bombers... if stray baggage was in the Pan Am Jumbo's hold, it would make no sense of claims

that no baggage is loaded unless it is matched to a passenger."

Flight 103, which originated in Frankfurt and was destined for New York after an aircraft change in London, exploded in the air over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, killing 270 people. Authorities said a bomb was placed in the area of the jetliner's front cargo hold.

The Sunday Express reported that soldiers are being questioned about the alleged diamond-courier scheme, which it said had been going on for months before the Flight 103 bombing.

The newspaper said U.S. troops were approached in West German nightclubs and offered thousands of dollars to carry diamonds to New York.

"On the fatal flight, it is supposed a deadly semtex parcel of death and destruction was handed over instead of diamonds," said the newspaper, without giving further details or identifying its sources.

'Jewish Defence League'

Dutch police are looking into the authenticity of a letter purporting to be from the 'Jewish Defence League' that claimed responsibility for planting the

bomb aboard Flight 103, a police spokesman in Leeuwarden said.

The letter, which reached the AP in London Thursday, had a Dutch stamp and was postmarked in a city in northern Netherlands.

"We have mounted a routine investigation to see whether we can learn anything about the origin of the letter," said Leeuwarden police chief Nicolas van Helten.

Although a police spokesman told the AP Thursday night that there were doubts on the letter's authenticity, Van Helten said in a telephone interview that "we cannot discard the serious possibilities out of hand."

The letter said: "We think the moment has come to disclose to the world from which side the bomb was placed which destroyed the Boeing 737 from Pan Am."

"We, a radical group of the Jewish Defence League, take responsibility for this action," the typewritten letter said. It added that the bomb was planted "by our fighters in Frankfurt" to protest the U.S. government's decision a week earlier to open talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

PLO-U.S. talks to continue at present level

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said the organisation's dialogue with the United States would continue at the present level after President-elect George Bush takes office, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Sunday.

The news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the PLO's Central Committee member, Khaled Al Hassan, ruled out the participation of high-ranking U.S. personalities "at this phase... before reaching full and common understanding on major issues."

"The aim of this dialogue is to explore and understand the real U.S. ideas, opinions and trends," KUNA quoted Al Hassan as saying in an interview with the Kuwait daily Al Rai Al Aam.

The United States and the PLO opened talks in Tunis Dec. 16 after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met Washington's two conditions — renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

Washington's ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau, was named to carry on the talks with PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo. Hassan said the current dialogue will continue on the same level.

Meanwhile, Arafat's chief spokesman, Bassam Abu Sherif, said he did not rule out the possibility of upgrading the level of contacts between the PLO and the British government.

KUNA, quoted Abn Sherif in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan, as saying that Arafat would be extended an invitation from the British government to visit the United Kingdom.

It said Abn Sherif described an Arafat meeting with the British deputy minister for foreign affairs, William Waldegrave, as "very positive concerning all topics we discussed" (see page 2).

2 Palestinians shot and killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians died Sunday after clashes with Israeli soldiers as Palestinians throughout the occupied territories observed a general strike.

As the casualty toll mounted in the 13-month-old uprising — troops were reported to have wounded eight Palestinian protesters Sunday — an Israeli government minister demanded a review of the army's use of such arms as plastic bullets.

"I raised the issue of the morality of using those elements. It should be discussed in a more thorough way," Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a member of the Labour Party, told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Shahal said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir agreed to hold a cabinet debate on the issue soon.

At least 365 Palestinians have died in the uprising. Doctors who regularly treat Palestinians wounded in clashes with the army say the supposedly non-lethal plastic bullets have killed and maimed dozens of people since they were introduced six months ago.

In the West Bank, Mohammad Rushdi Abush, 18, was shot in the chest during a clash with troops at the Far'a refugee camp and was dead on arrival at a local hospital, doctors said.

Ziad Ahmed Rahwan, 17, from Rafah in the Gaza Strip, died in an Israeli hospital after being shot by soldiers Saturday.

Shops closed and public transport came to a halt in the occupied territories as Palestinians observed a strike called by underground leaders of the uprising to honour Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

Troops shot and wounded at least four demonstrators in Askar refugee camp near Nablus, and two each in Jenin town and Silwad village, hospitals and Palestinian sources said.

The Arab sources said there were also major anti-Israel protests in the town of Hebron but no reports of injuries.

The army put all eight of the Gaza Strip's refugee camps under curfew, and residents of Tul-karem and Arab Jerusalem's Silwan neighbourhood were confined to their homes for the fourth day.

At the West Bank Jewish settlement of Yafir troops ordered settlers to leave a controversial monument to an Israeli shot dead 10 days ago and arrested those who refused to move, army radio reported.

Settlers and soldiers have traded blows at the site in recent days where troops have demolished the stone memorial three times and settlers have rebuilt it each time.

Right-wingers in the left-right coalition government attacked Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the cabinet meeting for his handling of the situation at Yafir, political sources said.

The latest Palestinian deaths bring to six the number of Palestinians killed by army gunfire in the past three days. All of the victims were 18 or younger and one was a 12-year-old girl.

The Yediot Ahronot mass-circulation tahloid quoted senior army commanders as saying the violence was a return to the bloodshed earlier in the uprising, after several months of relative calm.

Moscow says Afghan deadline will be met

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan said in a television interview broadcast Sunday that all his troops would leave the country on schedule by mid-February.

"By Feb. 15 the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will be completed entirely," Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov said.

"It is a delicate question which worries everybody in the world and of course it worries us," Gromov added. "But the plan and the scheme of the withdrawal have been drawn up."

Gromov's remarks appeared to put an end to days of speculation that the pull-out might be delayed, prompted by remarks made last week by Yuli Vorontsov, a special Kremlin envoy who has just returned from talks in the region.

The Feb. 15 deadline was set down in an agreement mediated by the United Nations and signed in Geneva by the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States in April 1988.

Soviet Television did not say

when the interview with Gromov had been recorded, although a television spokesman said it was probably in the last few days. It was contained in a weekly army programme.

Meanwhile, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, winding up a surprise visit to the Afghan capital Kabul, said every effort was being made to ensure all Soviet troops would leave by Feb. 15. His statement appeared to stop short of Gromov's firm commitment.

Shevardnadze also stressed the Soviet Union would continue its arms supplies to the Kabul government even after the last troops had left.

"Neither we nor (Afghan) President Najibullah want the Soviet troops to be delayed," Shevardnadze said in an interview with the Afghan news agency Bakhtar. His remarks were relayed by the official Soviet news agency TASS.

"We are striving for the withdrawal to facilitate the reestablishment of peace and not to be the signal for new fighting," he said.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI MEETS ENVOY: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday received the newly-appointed Qatari ambassador to Jordan, Mubarak Ibn Naser Al Kawwari.

AQABA DISTRICT REORGANISATION: The Urban Development Corporation has awarded a local Jordanian contracting firm a tender to reorganise the Shalabeh district in Aqaba City. A department spokesman said that more than JD 880,000 will be spent on the project which entails laying water networks, sewers and other civil works. (Petra)

TAFLEH SEWERAGE PROJECT: The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has completed a two stage sewerage project in Tafleh at the cost of JD 698,000. A WAJ spokesman said that teams are now employed on replacing the old water networks in Tafleh city and the whole governorate at the cost of JD 400,000, and that other teams are prospecting for new water resources in the eastern districts. (Petra)

JD 850,000 MADABA BUDGET: Madaba Municipality announced Sunday that its 1989 budget amounts to JD 850,000, and said that funds will be allocated for public gardens, road building, public squares, street-lighting and the construction of retaining walls. It said that JD 30,000 will be spent in compensation to citizens whose property will be affected in the process of carrying out municipal schemes.

EDUCATIONALIST LEAVES FOR U.K.: The educationalist Basem Barakat Sunday left for London on a several day working trip to Britain during which he will discuss issues pertaining to his kindergarten and school project. (J.T.)

MERCHANTS FINED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing a number of merchants to pay a fine of JD 20 each for violating the supply regulations. (Petra)

PSD IDENTIFIES SUSPECTED KILLERS: Public Security Forces have unveiled the identity of the suspected criminals who murdered a citizen in Amman last week and laid his body somewhere near the Gardens Street, a spokesman for the PSD said Sunday. The spokesman said that details of the case will be revealed later following the completion of investigations with the suspected criminals who admitted to committing the crime. (Petra)

PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES IN AQABA: The National Endowment for Child Education has decided to set up a branch in Aqaba to provide pre-school services to children and to support the children's programmes and institutions, particularly the nurseries, kindergartens and children's clubs. (Petra)

HEALTH EDUCATION: A week-long training course on health education, communication and their role in promoting birth spacing was opened Sunday at Balqa Health Department in Salt. Addressing the course was the Balqa Health Department director who stressed the importance of health education in birth spacing and called for utilising the course's information. The course is attended by a number of physicians and traditional birth attendants. The course will focus on the impact of birth spacing on maternal and child health, contraceptives and the importance of the health records of women. (Petra)

SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE: Director General of Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation Munir Al Durra Sunday discussed with a delegation from the Saudi Information Ministry scopes of cooperation in the sports field. The two sides also discussed the need by the Saudi television for Jordanian technicians to assist in filming, directing and transmitting the 5th world soccer championship for juniors, due to be held in Saudi Arabia in February. Durra said the Saudi delegation has selected 14 Jordanian technicians to assist in covering the championship. (Petra)

Badran urges drawing up science, technology plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Council of Science and Technology Adnan Badran Saturday stressed the need for drawing up a national strategy for science and technology and for adopting a flexible plan for secondary and university education with main focus on human resources.

Badran, who was speaking at an open dialogue organised by the committee on transfer of technology at the Amman Professional Associations Complex, called for directing special attention to the various stages of education and for linking science and technology with the society's needs.

Swedish expert to speak on trade with other countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swedish expert, in Jordan to advise the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce on administrative and documentation matters, is scheduled to deliver a lecture on Feb. 22 to present an overview of factors involved in trade with other countries.

He will discuss issues related to customs regulations, freight insurance, terms of payment and delivery and the legal aspects of the trade business. The expert, Peter Larsson, is the manager of the Trade Promotion Department at the Western Sweden Chamber of Commerce. He is here on a one-month technical assistance programme on behalf of the international trade centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madameh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nihal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Yugoslav graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of caricatures by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala's Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

CONCERT

- ★ A recital by the Italian accordionist Gervasio Marcognoni at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Queen Noor to attend Arbor Day ceremony on Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will attend an Arbor Day ceremony which will be organised by Greater Amman Municipality.

The ceremony will entail the official inauguration of the Maisaloun Garden on Jahal Nuzha, Hilal Garden in Tareq and Abu Nuseir Garden west of here.

Public and private organisations and private individuals will take part in the ceremony along with Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and other officials.

Tree planting celebrations will also be held in other parts of the Greater Amman area where schoolchildren, and different organisations will participate in planting trees, according to a municipality spokesman.

He said that 100,000 saplings have already been distributed to individuals and organisations to be planted during the ceremony or within the current agricultural season.

Last year, the Queen took part in three tree planting ceremonies at the public gardens in Umm Al Summaq, Tla' Al' Ali and Khilda along with great numbers of people.

The gardens were set up by the Greater Amman Municipality which also provided facilities for children and the local residents. Meanwhile in Ma'an Governorate, the Agriculture Department announced that it had dug thousands of holes in the ground to plant tree saplings during the Arbor Day celebrations this



HM Queen Noor

week.

It said that 215,000 saplings will be planted to grow as shrubs in pasturelands and 42,000 forest saplings will be planted at Shobak, Wadi Mousa, Al Rajef districts, along the main roads and the desert highway.

The department announced that youth centres, local clubs and public organisations and voluntary societies will be involved in the tree planting ceremonies.

The Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb attended a tree planting ceremony organised by the army headquarters at the Queen Alia Military Hospital grounds. Senior army officers and troops took part in planting tree saplings on the site. In Irbid, an Arbor Day ceremony was held at the Irbid Forest. The Irbid Governor and the mayor were among officials present at the ceremony during which thousands of people planted trees.

Other Arbor Day celebrations were reported in areas around Jordan Electricity Authority stations and installations in Amman, Zarqa, Jordan Valley, Karak, Tafleh and Aqaba.



Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb Sunday plants a tree at the Queen Alia Military Hospital grounds (Petra photo)

Qatanani leaves for Tunis meeting on Palestine refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the Palestine Refugee Affairs Supervisors Conference which is due to open in Tunis Monday.

The Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Director General Ahmad Qatanani left Amman Sunday to take part in the meeting which is being attended by Arab countries hosting refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Before his departure, Qatanani said the meeting, which would last until next Saturday, was expected to discuss a report that was prepared by the Arab League Secretariat on the Palestine refugee issue, developments in the Palestine problem, working papers on Israeli settlement programmes in occupied Palestine and Israel's violations of human rights and acts of sacrilege at holy places.

Israel's interference in the Arab educational process and the closure of schools run by UNRWA, as well as developments in Jewish immigration to Palestine and counter immigration will also be on the agenda, Qatanani said.

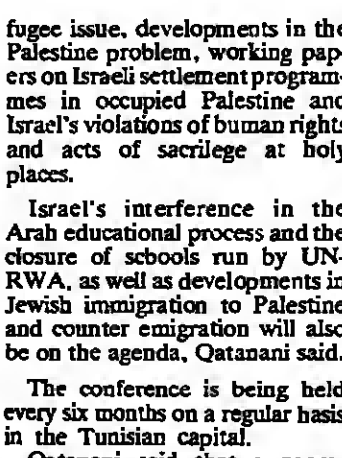
The conference is being held every six months on a regular basis in the Tunisian capital. Qatanani said that a representative of the Arab League will take part in the meetings.

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Egyptian economic delegation has arrived in Amman on a four-day visit and talks with government officials on cooperation in industry and trade.

The delegation, led by under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry Dr. Abdul Fattah Manji, will pave the way for a meeting in Cairo on Jan. 23 by Ministers of Industry and Trade in Egypt and Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tahhaa went to Cairo in October 1988 and met with ministers and other officials to discuss joint ventures and coordination in industrial fields.

He said in an announcement then that Jordan had formed three committees for industrial cooperation with Egypt to prepare a basic framework of coor-



Ahmad Qatanani



3rd division commander presents cups

Commander of the Third Royal Armoured Division Sunday presented the division's cups to Majdi Abdullah and Kheir Youssef Hassan who won the first place in the 5-kilometre and the

12-kilometre cross-country races which were held Sunday as part of the division's cross-country finals. The division's commander also presented medals to other winners (Petra photo)



Al Hussein attends Arbor Day celebration

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday arrives at Kharraneh east of Amman to attend the Arbor Day celebration. The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal

Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, ministers, high-ranking army officers and senior government officials (Petra photo)

Khayyat returns from Islamic cooperation talks in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Ministers of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in Islamic countries will hold a meeting by the end of March to draw up an integrated plan that would organise cooperation among their ministries in religious affairs, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

The minister was speaking upon returning here from Baghdad where he took part in an Islamic conference which he said took a decision on the March meeting.

Khayyat attended the second general conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in the Iraqi capital, held under the theme "Peace in Islam."

"The conference greeted the

Palestinian people's uprising, and supported the oppressed people in their drive to end Israeli occupation," the minister announced. He said that the conference declared its recognition of the Palestinian state and called on all nations to extend support for the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate their land and to thwart Israel's evil plans in the occupied territories.

The conference which was held between Jan. 10 and 13, discussed numerous questions pertaining to Islamic countries and religion; and reviewed papers dealing with deviationist movements in Islam and challenges to the Islamic faith, Khayyat said.

He said that the conference voiced support for Iraq in their quest to establish peace based on

justice in the Gulf region and the exchange of prisoners of war as soon as possible.

The conference was attended by more than 300 Muslim scholars and ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in 17 Muslim nations.

Ministers of Awqaf from Egypt and Iraq also addressed the conference highlighting the importance of the deliberations and calling for the establishment of peace in the Gulf region.

According to Khayyat, the conference paid tribute to Jordan for supporting Iraq and the Palestinian people in the face of external aggression.

He said speakers at the conference paid tribute to the Iraqi Armed Forces and people of their drive to defend their territory and to achieve a lasting peace.

Tunisian economic delegation arrives today for trade talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Tunisian economic delegation is due here Monday headed by Kamal Bilkaich, the director general of the Tunisian Export Centre.

The delegation will spend two days in Amman discussing with government officials ways for promoting bilateral trade and boosting the work of Jordanian and Tunisian trade centres in Amman and Tunis.

Also to be discussed is the question of setting up industrial

and trade fairs in Amman and Tunis to promote the marketing of both countries' products.

The head of the Jordanian team to the talks is Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Tunisia last year held a ten-day trade fair at the Greater Amman Municipality building, downtown Amman, displaying food products, perfumes, clothes and handicraft products. According to Jordanian and

Tunisian officials attending the fair opening, the volume of trade between the two countries stood at JD 30 million shared equally between the two sides.

Earlier, Jordan held its third trade fair in Tunis displaying a variety of national products. Jordan's products included leather, plastic and pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, kibbens, food supplies, agricultural products, oriental souvenirs and traditional products.

JPMC to conduct research for obtaining uranium from phosphate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) is currently conducting research to obtain uranium from phosphate which abounds in Jordan and plans to set up an experimental laboratory to extract uranium from phosphoric acid, JPMC Director General Wasef Azar said in a statement published in the local press.

Uranium, which is a basic component of phosphate, can be saturated and then sold for a good price, but the cost of producing it is high — running at the estimated rate of \$55 for every kilogramme.

The company also plans to purchase the Aqaba Railway Corporation which now transports most of the phosphate, extracted from the company's four mines in southern Jordan, to Aqaba for export, Azar said. At present the company mines the mineral at Hassa, 140

kilometres south of Amman located at Tafleh governorate, Wadi Al Abiad, which is to the north of Hassa and Sidieh which started operations at the end of the past year, Azar continued.

He said the Ruseifa mine, the first to be exploited for phosphate, had been closed down since 1980 for economic reasons.

These mines last year together produced five million tonnes yielding a net profit of JD 22 million, Azar noted.

But, the total revenue in 1988 stood at \$350 million and this year it is expected to rise to \$400 million, he added. But not all the produced phosphate had been sold. According to Azar only 2.5 million tonnes of the mineral were marketed worldwide in the past year which witnessed a total world marketing of 48 million tonnes. Azar said that an agreement

with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to conduct joint cooperation to control the amount of phosphate dust produced in the process of loading the mineral at Aqaba Port terminal is still valid, and it is hoped that the end of 1991 will witness the end of any dust that cause pollution.

The phosphate dust constitutes a major problem for the company, the importer of Jordanian phosphates and the residents of the port city, according to Azar.

He said the dust floats in the air and pollutes the port region during loading and transportation processes from the mines to the port.

By the end of 1991 the company would install special equipment at the phosphate mines; to separate dust from rock so loading areas in Aqaba would be completely free from falling dust, Azar added.

Housing Corporation to carry out projects in Irbid, Salt and Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation will carry out several housing projects in Irbid, Salt and Amman this year and will implement the second stage of the Abu Nuseir project which entails selling plots of land in an area of 1,200 dunums to members of the public, Corporation Director General Youssef Hiyasat said in a statement published Sunday.

The corporation will embark on a housing estate at Farkouh district of Irbid to build 182 units at the total cost of JD1.2 million, Hiyasat said in a statement to the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

In Salt, nearly 190 units will be built at the cost of JD2 million, but construction will have to wait until the coming year, Hiyasat noted.

Preparations for another housing estate, that of Marka in Amman, will take place this year and plans are being made to set up 37g units on a total of 51,408 square metres of land at the cost

of JD4.5 million, Hiyasat added. The Housing Corporation built the Abu Nuseir housing estate and sold it to government employees but kept half of the land which will be divided into 300 to 700 square metres provided with roads, water and electricity for sale to the public, Hiyasat said.

By the end of 1987, Hiyasat pointed out, the corporation completed building 74 housing estates with a total of 14,500 housing units at the total cost of JD159 million.

These, he said, were constructed in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafrqa Balqa, Karak, Tafleh and Ma'an Governorates with Amman Governorate accounting for the lion's share: 22 housing estates of 6,894 units at an overall cost of JD10.5 million.

Beneficiaries of the units set up by the Housing Corporation, Hiyasat continued, pay 10 per cent of the total cost of the units

in advance but can spread payments of the rest of the cost over 20 years and in the event of the beneficiary's death, his family will be exempted from paying the rest of the cost.

Hiyasat said that beneficiaries should be Jordanians of at least 21 years of age and do not own their homes and had never before benefited from the corporation's housing projects.

Meanwhile, the Housing Corporation announced Sunday that it has a number of housing units for sale to the public in Ma'an, Tafleh, Sahab, Irbid Ajloun, Jerash, Mafrqa and Marka areas.

A spokesman for the corporation said that the units range in area between 73 to 131-square-metres, and each is worth between JD13,000.

According to the spokesman, all sectors of the public, including private individuals and organisations, can benefit from the offer.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1974.

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Belted to safety

SAFETY belts are again in fashion in Jordan. In a few days it will be compulsory to use them while driving inside and outside towns and cities. This is good news for drivers and their families and friends who may accompany them on their drives. There is a well-established worldwide consensus that the use of safety belts contributes to a marked decrease in deaths and injuries incurred in accidents that could happen while driving under various conditions. The fact that Jordan has finally subscribed to this international norm means that deaths and injuries on Jordanian roads will be cut drastically. There is much savings in this timely and long awaited step in terms of sufferings and economic costs. What remains is to implant in the Jordanians the culture of using safety belts. This may not be an easy task as it would take much time and many fines and penalties to reeducate Jordanian drivers in the habit of buckling up as soon as they sit behind the steering wheel. Regrettably, Jordanian drivers were met with conflicting signals by the concerned authorities on the use of safety belts in the past years. The mandatory use of safety belts was on again off again so many times in the past that Jordanian drivers never had the time to get used to the practice. It is the hope of all Jordanians that the new rules on safety belts will remain sacrosanct from now on as to assist Jordanians to acquire the habit of using them for all times.

Meanwhile, it would be most advisable to use all forms of mass media to educate Jordanians about the benefits of buckling up. Most notably, Jordan Television is called upon to pitch in the battle of teaching Jordanians the custom of using safety belts as a routine practice. Maybe billboard signs should be also used to remind drivers that it is now the law to use safety belts. In addition insurance companies operating in Jordan will be well advised to join in the effort to make the use of safety belts part of Jordanian driving traditions. After all, they have also a vested interest in cutting down on the number of deaths and injuries sustainable in road accidents in Jordan. To be sure, there are other parties in Jordan which have a stake in reducing the death and injury rate on Jordanian roads and whose contribution to the overall national effort in making the use of safety belts a common practice are urgently needed. But, in the final analysis, it is the Jordanian driver who must bear the brunt of the responsibility of making driving in Jordan a safer privilege.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Sunday discussed Israel's escalation of criminal activities against the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and said that the past weeks witnessed a rise in the number of casualties. There is no doubt that the Israeli government is intensifying its criminal campaign in a bid to end the revolt and to defy the world's call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East, the paper noted. Al Ra'i said that since Israel continues to scoff at the world community's condemnation of atrocities against Palestinians, then the United Nations should impose penalties on the Jewish state to force it to desist from pursuing its evil policies. Also it is high time for the Arabs to move as a body and in a concerted action to put an end to the Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestinian lands, the paper added. Israel, the paper continued, has so far been backed by the United States, through its vetoes at the Security Council, provided an umbrella for Israel's atrocities. It said should the Bush administration maintain Washington's present attitude then the Arabs have no alternative but to seek an overwhelming U.N. support for a drastic action against Israel.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomes the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company for the production of lean meat. The project is of vital importance not only for Jordan and Egypt but also for the Arab Nation as a whole since meat production is a way to increase food supplies and ensure food security, says Salah Abdul Samad. The writer says that the project which came as a fruit of the work of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee is something to which Arab masses look to help them rely more and more on Arab sources for food and lessen dependency on imported products. Fresh meat produced locally is bound to save Egypt and Jordan vast sums of foreign currency that is being paid to import the commodity from foreign nations and can save the Arab Nation the risk of eating American meat treated with hormones that endanger public health, Abdul Samad notes. He expresses hope that all concerned sectors will now join hands to make this project achieve success.

Al Dustour daily commented Sunday on the European Community's current moves towards solving the Middle East conflict. The British foreign secretary's recent statements and the first ever meeting by a British minister with the PLO leaders in addition to the Spanish foreign minister's visit to Israel Sunday all point to one thing: That Europe is fully determined to help the two parties to the conflict to reach a lasting settlement that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The current moves from Europe point to a new strategy being adopted by the community towards the Middle East following the PLO's open declaration of accepting U.N. Security Council resolutions and its renunciation of all forms of terrorism, the paper noted. It said that the Arabs look to the new moves as very positive and favouring the cause of peace; and Jordan, which has been advocating a just peace world-wide, is particularly satisfied with the current efforts. The community's determination to move ahead with plans for peace also reflect the current favourable political situation and the on-going detente between the major powers.

Sawt Al Shaab said that British government minister William Waldegrave's talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis clearly reflect Europe's immense interest in a Middle East peace. Waldegrave who urged Israel to respond favourably to the PLO's overtures and to accept the idea of an international conference is giving a real momentum to the peace march in our region, the paper said. It said that Britain which maintains close relations with the United States and is at the same time an ally of European nations and a friend to Israel and the Arabs can play a leading role in bringing about a real and lasting peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Marking time

RUMOUR has it that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has new ideas on peace between his country and the Arab side. The same source behind Shamir's story is spreading additional rumours to the effect that the Israeli prime minister is consciously keeping the details of his peace plans close to his chest for fear that the Arab side would reject and kill them as soon as they are revealed to the Arab parties. By the Israeli government's own admission, the Shamir peace plan is so bad and objectionable from the Arab side point of view that it is doomed before it is kicked off by Shamir. The question that arises, therefore, is: Why is Shamir bothering to float speculations about his so-called peace plans when he knows before hand that they are so flawed that the Arab side would reject them as soon as they get a wind of it.

Recent visitors to Israel, including Lord Henry Plumb, the Speaker of the European Parliament, refute all the stories about the impending Shamir's new peace plan and confirm that the Israeli prime minister has nothing really new up his sleeves. It could very well be that the independent observers are dismissing the reports about a new Israeli peace plan because they are neither peaceful nor new but rather a rehash of old ideas long discarded by the Arab and international communities.

So why is Tel Aviv making all this fuss about a new Israeli peace initiative that would sweep away all peace plans placed on the table of the Middle East? One possible reason could be found in

the fact that the Israeli government has felt the heat of the recent Arab peace initiatives and wanted to derail them by simply marking time. Shamir must have calculated that all the excitement generated by the bold PLO peace moves can be defused and confused only by propelling decoys in its path. And Shamir's much publicised peace initiative can be best understood as just one of the decoys that is meant to make the Arab peace offer miss the mark where it counts most, i.e., Washington.

If one is to go by the test balloons being blown up to float the so-called Israeli peace ideas, there are so many negative features already revealed about these thoughts to dampen any glimmer of hope about them nor to make them serve as basis on which to construct rectifications and amendments with a view to making them more palatable. Take for example the red herring thrown purposely by the new Shamir peace formula that calls for by-passing totally the PLO in the projected peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab side. What naivety still reigns in the minds of Shamir and like minded Israeli leaders to ever think that the clocks of the Middle East can still be turned back to the extent of excluding the Palestinians from the peace process at a time when there is considerable body of international and regional opinion that calls for exactly the opposite. There are other features revealed about the new Shamir ideas that are so flawed and ridiculous that are not worthy of commenting. They include

the preposterous flirtation with a scheme for extending the hegemony of Israel beyond even the West Bank.

The only possibly positive dimension of Shamir's new advances could be his acceptance of talks under international aegis; although he still clings to his thoughts that the international umbrella must remain ceremonial. By pretending to yielding to international consensus on the format of the projected peace talks on the Middle East conflict, Israel's prime minister hopes to obscure his disdain for substantial international involvement in the peace process.

If you ask me, Shamir and his government is not yet interested in advancing peace process in the Middle East. His only priority is to quell the Palestinian uprising and then to gain a breathing space to deal the Arab side a lasting fatal blow. For as long as Shamir keeps on talking about the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "Eretz Israel," no matter what words he uses or formulae he introduces, the cause of peace will enjoy no chance whatsoever to survive and prosper. His aging ideas must be given an opportunity to die out naturally and slowly before the hopes for genuine negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides would have a chance to bear fruit and come into fruition. As Shamir and his colleague wish to mark time the Arab side has also no choice except also to mark time till the 54 per cent of the Israelis who showed willingness to trade territory for peace get the upper hand in Israeli politics.

Return to democracy not assured

Pinochet begins last year of supreme power

By Richard Waddington
Reuter

SANTIAGO — Augusto Pinochet, Chile's unrivalled ruler for the past 15 years, has begun his last full year of supreme power, but his opponents say the country's return to full democracy is not yet assured.

By the end of 1989 Chileans will have gone to the polls to elect a civilian successor to the fiercely anti-Communist general, whose dreams of continuing in power were shattered in a plebiscite in October.

The result of the ballot, in which Chile's seven million voters opted by 55 to 43 per cent against prolonging his rule for eight more years, means Pinochet must call competitive presidential and congressional elections on December 14.

Few Chileans doubt the elections will be held and that Pinochet will have to honour his pledge to hand over power on March 11, 1990.

"I have not the slightest doubt that there will be elections in 1989," Gonzalo Eguiguren, a leading member of the Conservative National Renovation Party, told Reuters.

Pinochet, 73, who has outlasted all other Latin American military rulers except Paraguay's General Alfredo Stroessner, cannot stand in the election unless the constitution is changed.

Even right-wing political parties, which backed his bid in the plebiscite, have rejected any such move.

Military tutelage

For the general's opponents, however, the transfer of the presidency from Pinochet will not mean an end to the military's political power. They say the country's constitution gives the armed forces excessive right to interfere in political affairs.

Pinochet, who is also head of the army, is guaranteed his military command for eight more years, if he wishes.

As army commander, he would sit on a military-dominated national security council empowered to question political decisions it considers threaten the country's interests.

He can also effectively appoint one third of the senate, sufficient to block moves to reform the disputed charter, before stepping down.

"What we have is military tutelage and not real democracy," said one opposition leader.

Seventeen opposition parties ranging from centrists to the Marxist left, which came together to defeat Pinochet in the poll, say the general's defeat was not just a rejection of his candidacy but also of the military's political plans.

Their demands have been supported, in part, by some right-wing political parties who fear the issue of constitutional reform could be turned to the opposition's advantage in the coming presidential election.

Civilian ministers have said the charter could be "perfected," but the general has so far ruled out changes.

Pinochet sees the constitution as a guarantee against a return to the political and economic chaos from which the military say they saved the country by toppling elected Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

The campaign for reform, however, has become partially obscured by internal political manoeuvring, as politicians from all shades and parties jockey for position before the first open elections in Chile since 1970.

"Until it is clear who are the real candidates and who is going to win, the military government is not going to make any concessions," said Jose Joaquin Brunner, director of the Latin American Social Science Faculty, a think-tank linked to the moderate left.

An attempt at dialogue between the military government and its opponents, which would have been the first formal meeting between the two camps since 1984, failed when the government vetoed a left-wing member of the delegation.

After their dramatic plebiscite victory, opposition leaders say they are confident of securing the presidency and a majority in the new congress. "The political right alone has never drawn more than 30 per cent of the vote," said Eric Schnake, a leader of the centre-left Party for Democracy.

The opposition, which took the rainbow as a symbol for their plebiscite campaign, embraces a wide range of ideologies and personal ambitions.

The parties have tacitly agreed that the centrist Christian Democrats, who ruled Chile from 1964 until 1970, when Allende was elected, has first option for the presidential candidacy.

But Patricio Aylwin, party president and official opposition spokesman during the plebiscite, who was assumed to be the front-runner, is facing a challenge from others in the party.

And the party's allies are demanding a fair share-out of the potential congressional seats as the price of their final approval.

"It is a very complicated game of political chess," Schnake said.

On the political right, united only in their support for the military government's free-market economic policies, things are no clearer.

Many names are mentioned, including young Finance Minister Hernan Buchi, regarded as the architect of the country's recent economic successes, but none has yet drawn wide support.

Ironically, it is from the political conservatives that the strongest pressure on the military to grant certain reforms is beginning to emerge.

National Renovation, headed by a former Pinochet minister and generally seen as the strongest conservative group, has had talks with the Christian Democrats on certain basic changes.

There is an electoral motive behind the right's interest in reform. Many Chilean conservatives opposed the plebiscite because it allowed the opposition to rally behind the single issue of defeating Pinochet.

They fear that unless the military agrees to change, the opposition will be able to turn the coming elections into a single issue campaign for constitutional reform.

"There is no doubt that those closest to the government would be hurt. It would give the opposition a new battle standard," Eguiguren said.

Kissinger's disciple takes No. 2 position at State Department

By Wolf Blitzer

WASHINGTON — Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders beamed a collective sigh of relief the other day when Secretary of State-designate James Baker announced the nomination of Lawrence Eagleburger as deputy secretary, the No. 2 slot in the department.

Eagleburger, a highly-respected career foreign service officer, who rose to the No. 3 position before retiring in 1984, has a strong record of support for Israel. This was vividly underlined just before his retirement in an interview conducted with The Jerusalem Post in May, 1984 at the State Department.

"Our strategic interest is well served by a strong, self-reliant Israel," Eagleburger said at the time. "It provides us with an anchor in the Middle East, which we would not otherwise have. I can't say it any other way."

"The U.S. ability to affect events in the Middle East is very much dependent on the quality of the relationship with Israel," he observed. "I think the reverse is also true, that Israel's ability to affect the attitudes of its neighbours is very much dependent on that same perception."

The Arabs, he added, must come to understand that the U.S. commitment to Israel "is not in question. If they think there is some distance between us, there is less desire to find a way to reasonable solutions to problems than if the relationship is close."

Since leaving the State Department, Eagleburger has served as president of Kissinger Associates, Henry Kissinger's high-powered, New York-based consulting firm. The two men had established a very close personal and professional relationship in the 1970s, when Kissinger served as secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford administrations. As under secretary for management, Eagleburger was one of his most trusted aides.

Not surprisingly, Kissinger and Eagleburger see basically eye-to-eye on many of the most important foreign policy questions of the day, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. Both, for example, have long been opposed to any enhanced diplomatic role in the region for the Soviet Union. Kissinger, while in office, worked to reduce that influence.

They also oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state. But Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens are very well aware of the fact that both Eagleburger and Kissinger — like almost all U.S. foreign-policy pundits — believe that Israel should be prepared eventually to withdraw from almost all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in exchange for peace.

Brent Scowcroft, for example, has been named Bush's national security adviser in the White House. Like Eagleburger, Scowcroft worked for Kissinger in the Nixon and Ford administrations. While by no means hostile toward Israel, Scowcroft does not necessarily share Eagleburger's very strong support. His views are much more down-the-middle — those of the traditional Eastern Establishment, as reflected by the Council on Foreign Relations and the Brookings Institution.

Because of Baker's relative lack of foreign-policy experience, Eagleburger will play a very active role in many areas, including the Middle East. For one thing, he knows the Washington power game; he knows where the bodies are buried. He is also intimately familiar with the State Department and foreign-policy bureaucracy. He is well known and well liked on Capitol Hill.

Eagleburger is also very knowledgeable about the Arab-Israeli conflict and maintains close personal relations with several important Israeli leaders, including Moshe Arens. In his earlier State Department incarnation, he worked very closely with former ambassador to the U.S. Simcha Dinizit and former director-general of the Foreign Ministry David Kimche.

In short, look for Eagleburger to be among the handful of Bush associates dominating Middle East policy. In fact, Eagleburger is probably going to emerge as a main address for Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders, given his longstanding personal relationship with many of them.

But Kissinger, too, will remain an important address — as he has been since leaving office. All he knows the Washington power game; he knows where the bodies are buried. He is also intimately familiar with the State Department and foreign-policy bureaucracy. He is well known and well liked on Capitol Hill.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

At the turn of the year there had been speculation that he might shortly make the visits to Cuba and Britain that were postponed in December when the Armenian earthquake brought him home directly from the United Nations in New York.

The visits would be rescheduled, but no time-frame had yet been decided, according to the sources.

But the sources indicated Gorbachev would go to Bonn and Paris in a two-country swing in late April, reciprocating recent visits by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Francois Mitterrand of France.

If no problems arise during a visit by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Peking at the start of February, the Soviet party chief and president would himself go to China in the second half of May, according to this

account.

In his speech to the intellectuals, Gorbachev delivered a vigorous defence of his "new thinking" foreign policy which has broken with the old Kremlin view that international relations were an extension of the "class struggle" on the world stage.

Moscow-based Communists from developing and some Western countries, whose own parties have expressed concern over this switch, say influential ideologists continue to question the new policy in internal Soviet party discussions.

At a meeting of the party's policy-making central committee on Jan. 10, Gorbachev clearly sought to show himself as a leader of consensus by selecting figures representing varying views as Communist candidates for elections in March.

A list of 100 names he presented to the session as the chosen of the ruling Politburo included both radical supporters of perestroika, his programme of economic restructuring and other reforms, and more traditional figures, according to partial accounts.

"I certainly believe it is a good thing that at last we recognise that in our society too we have liberals and conservatives as well as radicals of the right and left," a central committee official told foreign reporters.

The 100 are the party's quota

of nominated delegates to a new parliamentary body, the congress of people's deputies, two thirds of whose 2,250 members will be elected on March 26 in a key stage of Gorbachev's "power to the people" programme.

But for once the Kremlin leader's sure-footedness as appears to desert him. Nomination of the 100, rather than selection by vote at a broadened session of the central committee in mid-March, left many Gorbachev supporters puzzled.

"I'm sure the intentions were good, but it does not look too democratic at a time when our slogan is 'let us learn democracy'," one Soviet journalist said. In private conversation, officials also admitted they were confused.

More recently, he co-chaired (with former vice president Walter Mondale) a study group on the Arab-Israeli conflict sponsored by the Washington Institute on Near East Policy, a private think-tank. The final report of the study group generally reflected support for Israel.

And during the presidential campaign last year, Eagleburger was an active member of Bush's Middle East task force. He strongly pressed for a pro-Israeli platform — and he got his way.

In the end, though, it will be George Bush who will make the final, tough decisions in the coming four years — The Jerusalem Post.



Mikhail Gorbachev

of nominated delegates to a new parliamentary body, the congress of people's deputies, two thirds of whose 2,250 members will be elected on March 26 in a key stage of Gorbachev's "power to the people" programme.

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Freya Stark in traditional Arab dress.

Freya Stark — Eternal traveller

Dame Freya Stark has spent an itinerant lifestyle and written many books about her travels. A new book brings together her prolific correspondence to relations and friends; it is rich in accounts of experiences from an adventurous life.

By Maggie James

LONDON — Writing to a young person wishing to travel, 87-year-old Freya Stark advises that she thinks it important to have a quest of one's own — "history, literature, photography, anything like a pursuit to give an added reason and interest for travel."

She herself has had an interest in all of these things and, in addition, an abiding curiosity about people and places. This has been conveyed in her long literary career as a travel writer. As a substitute for a diary, Freya Stark wrote to her family and acquaintances as she travelled and an extraordinary eight volumes of her letters have been published.

The most recent volume, entitled *Over the Rim of the World*, edited by Caroline Moorehead and published by John Murray in association with Michael Russell,

consists of selected letters which span 66 years of her remarkable life.

The modern day traveller can only marvel at the confidence, stamina, courage and resourcefulness of a lady who, though not always in the best of health, frequently travelled alone, often in foreign countries where females were rarely seen in public or, as in Iran, where no European woman had travelled alone before.

She used a diversity of transport, often spending uncomfortable hours on the back of a mule or a camel — and all this in an era when many of her travels would have been regarded as pioneering for a man, let alone a woman.

Born in Paris in 1893 of English parents, Freya Stark's childhood was nomadic, with her artist parents constantly moving. Freya and her sister had a sporadic

education, usually under the tutelage of governesses. Despite this, Freya was academically inclined and went on to study history at London University. She had an aptitude for languages and gained a knowledge of French, German, Italian and Latin. Later, during her travels, she learned Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Russian.

During the World War I, Freya trained as a nurse in Italy, but caught typhoid, which turned into pleurisy and then pneumonia. She nearly died. After her recovery she spent the last year of the war nursing in Italy. In 1927 she went to the Middle East for the first time — the start of a lifelong fascination with the area.

While staying in Lebanon she noted, "I am very popular here — the one and only person who has ever come to learn Arabic for pleasure."

Her presence was conspicuous and she wrote with amusement, "I have never been anywhere where it is more fun to have clothes: everyone is so interested in them, and if I put on a fresh hat on Sunday mornings it is with the agreeable certainty that it is going to give pleasure to the whole congregation."

Travelling on to Syria, Freya encountered hedonists with a train of camels and excitedly described the animals: "The great gentle creatures came browsing and moving and pausing, rolling gently over the landscape like a brown wave just a little browner than the desert that carried it. Their huge legs rose up all round me like columns; the foals were frisking about; the herdsmen rode here and there. I stood in a kind of ecstasy among them."

It seemed they were not so much moving as flowing along, with something indescribably fresh and peaceful and free about it all, as if the struggle of all these thousands of years had never been, since first they started wandering. I never imagined that my first sight of the desert would come with such a shock of beauty and enslave me right away."

After a short visit to her father in Canada, Freya, determined to return to the Middle East, travelled to Baghdad. The British community in Baghdad was rather disapproving of this somewhat eccentric lady who wore Arab dresses for dinner parties and, in order to economise, lived 'native' with a shoemaker's fami-

ly. She described Baghdad as a long flat city in a flat land, but her special interest was with the people. "The people here are of all fascinating sorts — the beautiful ones being Kurds," she wrote. "Never have I seen more fine-looking men, so agile and strong with legs bare to the thigh and red turbans, and long hair under, and a wild aquiline handsomeness that is quite intoxicating and I only wish I could paint it."

Freya had begun to write articles for several British newspapers and in 1932 became a regular writer for the *Baghdad Times* which brought a welcome income. Although she returned to Baghdad several times, her restless feet soon took her to Iran, Egypt and southern Arabia, which she visited for the first time in 1934 because, as she explained later, "I wanted space, distance, history and danger." She had taken up photography on her adventures and also drew maps of the areas she visited.

More travels followed, including trips to India, across America in 1943 and 1944 (where she was asked to give talks on the Palestine question) and Turkey. In

1970 she was still travelling, this time to the Himalayas at the age of 77.

But that was not the end of her travelling days. In 1984 she returned to the Middle East, and visited Yemen and Syria. In 1972 Freya Stark was made a Dame in the British New Years Honours List, but found the title, she told friends, a little austere.

The final letter of the book contains a characteristic piece of advice on travelling in Arabia from Freya Stark, written in 1980: "I don't think you need worry about safety: the Arab feeling for women's propriety is so strong that you need only be careful to show that you are a modest creature by covering up to the neck, down more or less to the ankles and wrists, and the hair (I used to wear woollen stockings — to protect myself against the sun); a skirt over my riding breeches; long sleeves and riding shirt buttoned to the neck — and got no suggestions other than quite numerous proposals of marriage, which I countered by explaining that my mother would not like me to settle so far away."

— Academic File

Keys are also becoming 'more intelligent'

ESSEN (INP) — There are all sorts of buzzing, hanging, and whistling sounds to be heard at the Security Technology Fair. Sensors register the noises and body heat of potential burglars, electronic eyes on doors and gates record unauthorised intruders through the fundus of the eye, signature or fingerprints. Floodlights come on, red lights begin to circulate, sirens sound the alarm and broken panes of glass as well as breaking the law are an integral part of demonstrations. This all takes place at the "world security fair" or "Security 88" in the West German city of Essen. This time around some 400 exhibitors from 17 countries attended, displaying everything designed to protect people, dwellings, industrial plants and bank safes.

Since biblical times, burglars have paid their calls at night — and alarm systems have been used to chase them away if doors and windows were not secure enough. Criminals have since become a lot more cunning and bolder. They also are active during the day, use false ID cards and documents. Security technology must find ways to repel them for there are entire factory grounds, computer centres and data stores, laboratories or safes containing building plans which have to be protected from burglary, fire or computer crime.

The figures provide a warning on their own: some 3.3 billion DM worth of damage was caused last year in the Federal Republic of Germany through theft alone according to crime statistics. Bank and post robbers were active on 878 occasions, 633 trans-

ports carrying money and valuables were robbed, the staff of shops and accounting offices were the victims of armed robbers on no less than 2,904 occasions. The security technology branch this year anticipates a turnover of 7.5 billion DM — and the expectation of seven to eight per cent growth per annum in future appears reasonable.

The German Federal Post Office recently began making the TEMEX system available, which automatically passes on an alarm signal from a factory or the home — unobserved by intruders — via the telephone network to a security centre of the police. Of course, such high technological installations are not cheap. Private persons still tend to go for less complex security systems: for instance, light barriers set to huff intruders at night, a lock, which prevents shutters being pushed up or a programmed drive unit for shutters, which operated on a time basis, regularly opening and shutting the blinds thus creating the impression that the occupants are at home. The Essen fair displayed window and door glass which is shot-resistant and cylinder locks which cannot simply be forced out.

Keys too are becoming more intelligent. There is a key for instance, with built-in micro chip, which has a programmed code, making electronic locks safe from break-ins. Anyone wishing to keep undesired guests out altogether installs a "Videoporter" at his front-door. Then you can see who is there without being seen yourself.

Kurt Pleyer (IN-Press)



MORE security is provided by this — in our photo, overdimensional — key with built-in micro chip. It possesses a preprogrammed code and cannot be copied. It is used to operate electronic locks and was presented in the Federal Republic of Germany.

(Photo: DPA)

The 'unsung' lady composers

(INP) — Not just a few, but thousands of women have been composing for centuries. Yet if one asks their names, even the experts are only able, at best, to mention female composers in conjunction with a famous husband or brother. They refer to Clara Wieck, the celebrated pianist and wife of Robert Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel, whose brother Felix contemptuously described her compositions as "petticoat products," or Alma Mahler-Werfel, whose husband Gustav flatly forbade her to compose. Women were appreciated as interpreters, as celebrated singers, harpists, pianists or violinists. But composing was and remained a male domain.

But even in the 17th century, the situation in Italy was different. The music training of women had reached a high standard in Florence and Venice. Francesca Caccini, for example, composed a music drama entitled "La liberazione di Ruggiero" as far back as 1625 which, together with Monteverdi's operas, represents one of the earliest compositions of this genre. Barbara Strozzi, her contemporary, is regarded today as the first professional composer who was able to make a living from her works. But the traditional pattern of roles in a patriarchal society caused creative female talent to be quickly forgotten once more. This was the situation with which music researchers were confronted in the mid-1970s.

The women's movement was already well under way when Cologne-based conductor Elke Mascha Blankenburg set up the "Arbeitskreis Frau und Musik" (Woman and Music Working Group) in 1978. She collected "Frauenmusik" (music by women), rummaged around in archives and looked for scores which had fallen into oblivion.

She has meantime been joined by some 500 female artists and academics. Her "Frauenmusikarchiv" (Women's Music Archives), located in Düsseldorf, now boasts of 4,000 compositions, 300 records and about 200 books on the subject of "Women and Music." Particularly worthy of mention are the encyclopaedias which provide an overview of research findings so far, such as Eva Weissweiler's book "Komponistinnen aus fünf Jahrhunderten" (Female Composers from five Centuries). At numerous festivals, Frau Blankenburg not only presents works of past epochs; she also devotes her attention to little-known women composers of more modern times, such as Ilse Fromm-Michaelis (born 1888), Grete von Zieritz (born 1899) and Aleida Montijn (born 1908). All three can be regarded as outstanding artists of our century. But something that would have been a matter of course in the case of male colleagues of their stature, was denied them: the inclusion of their works in concert and opera programmes and, from the financial angle, a commensurate position in German cultural activity.

Once their works had been

performed, though, success followed. Ilse Fromm-Michaelis's music captured the interest of Hans Pfitzner, under whom she studied for three years. Grete von Zieritz attributes the positive reactions of her audiences to the highly personal tonal language of her pieces, and without Aleida Montijn's stage music, almost thirty years of Frankfurt's theatre history would be unthinkable. Yet only now have thoughts turned to her opera, her cantatas, orchestral works, chamber music and organ compositions.

The New Music festivals — to which Elke Mascha Blankenburg extends invitations — often offer

The difficulties and opportunities of women in the music world

female composers in the Federal Republic of Germany, their first chance to present their works to the public. In Göttingen, Kassel, Heidelberg, Bremen and Unna the many-sidedness of women's artistic creativeness has become apparent. But this virgin territory turned out to be treacherous in the first instance. The frequent diplomatic liberality on the part of the critics, and the occasional ardently feminist reactions among the audience hardly seemed to serve the cause. In like manner, the enormous number of

works performed provided an opportunity to confirm prejudices, too; those expecting sentimental music found their expectations confirmed, as did those who firmly believe that creativeness and handicraft skills are a self-evident truth which have nothing to do with sex.

In this connection, works by young artists from the USSR, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania are particularly conspicuous because of their niveau and content. Sofia Gubaidulina, Galina Ustvolskaja and Tatjana Sergejewa have long become a household word in Western Europe, as have Violeta Dinescu, Myriam Maré and Adriana Hölszky. Adriana Hölszky's vocal compositions "Monolog" for female voice and percussion, and "... es kamen schwarze Vögel", a work for five female singers and percussion, have been performed in Kassel, for instance. Far removed from feminist defiance or excessive awareness of problems, her works radiate joy, in tonal effects, and supreme creative fantasy, completely free from technical production problems or desired effects — which make the performances of these compositions a stroke of good fortune. The Romanian-born artist, now living in Stuttgart, has long secured her place outside women's festivals. Her first opera was premiered at this year's Biennale in Munich, the only work by a woman and one which met with undisputed success. Here, at least, one goal seems to have been realised: the



Composer Adriana Hölszky is one of the few women who has succeeded in establishing herself in the professional music world. (Photo: INP/Hölszky-privat)

integration of a female composer's music in traditional concert programmes.

The prejudice that women have no place in orchestras is even more tenacious than the opinion that composing is a man's job. Today, 1500 male orchestral players are to be found in an exposed position compared with 214 female musicians in a similar position. The old tale about women's limited powers of eo-

urance seems to be particularly persistent in this sector. This is especially true of prestigious major orchestras in which the prospects of engagement remain fairly bleak for even the most highly qualified women players. The example of clarinetist Sabine Meyer with the Berlin Philharmonic is not an isolated case; harpist Maria Graf also departed after a year's probation. A female trombonist in Munich suffered a simi-

lar fate. Not to speak of the Vienna Philharmonic where women are considered undesirable right from the start. Unfortunately, the old prejudice — which female composers have now overcome — still applies to female orchestral musicians: women's music — and men's ears close up.

Godrun Stegen (IN-Press)

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Soviet exports down, imports up in 1988

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's trade balance worsened last year with exports slumping by two per cent and imports increasing by 6.5 per cent, according to official figures released Saturday.

Tadeusz Teodorovich of the Soviet Ministry of External Economic Relations released the figures to the TASS news agency, adding to a more general statement on trade he made to journalists earlier this week.

He repeated that total trade turnover stood at 132 billion roubles (\$6.5 billion) last year. In 1987, exports totalled 68.2 billion roubles (\$11.08 billion) and imports stood at 60.7 billion roubles (\$9.86 billion).

On Wednesday, he said exports exceeded imports by four billion roubles (\$6.5 billion) last year. In 1987, exports totalled 68.2 billion roubles (\$11.08 billion) and imports stood at 60.7 billion roubles (\$9.86 billion).

Teodorovich told TASS the structure of Soviet exports remained unsatisfactory with 70 per cent derived from fuel and energy deliveries. Engineering products accounted for 16 per cent.

The worsening of the trade position appears to have been caused primarily by falling prices for oil and raw materials.

Teodorovich said efforts were under way to develop exports in areas other than primary resources — a key plank of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

Teodorovich said it was hoped

changes to the Soviet foreign trade system would improve the balance, particularly regulations allowing all state, cooperative and other organisations to export and import freely from next April.

He said the current programme to boost trade growth included a move to confine imports mainly to machinery and equipment to modernise enterprises connected with engineering or the food industry.

The Soviet national income, a measure of economic activity that excludes the value of some services, increased by 4.4 per cent in 1988 and by 3.6 per cent for the period of 1986-1988, TASS said.

"The growth of national income was assured by an increase in labour productivity with an absolute reduction in 1987-1988 of the number of people engaged in material production," TASS said.

However, it said that the increase in national income still fell short of the plan for 1988 by 13.3 billion roubles (\$2.1 billion). It did not say what the goal was.

"No stability in the development of agricultural production and in the operation of processing branches had been achieved so far," TASS reported.

"The population's requirements for many food stuffs are not met, big purchases of food abroad have to be made," it continued, saying that the cost of those purchases for the last three years was 30 billion roubles (\$4.8 billion).

Gorbachev said a long-awaited plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee on agriculture will take place in March.

The Soviet president is pushing to increase farmers' interest in their work by organising them on the basis of smaller groups and giving them more responsibility and a chance to earn more money for increased production. But TASS did not provide details on whether he went into specifics in his remarks Friday.

In those comments to agricultural specialists, Gorbachev defended the giant collective and state farms that were organised during Stalin's rule.

"Those who do not trust the collective and state farms... have simply failed to think everything over to the end and failed to sort things out," TASS quoted Gorbachev as saying.

"It is precisely now that our big collective and state farms will be able to work in the right way and in the interests of rural workers, and it means, for the benefit of the country because we reveal their potential in boosting the output of products."

East Asia's consumers go on spending spree

By Rich Miller
Reuter

TOKYO — East Asia's consumers are starting to loosen their purse strings and live a little.

From Thailand to Japan, they are snapping up everything from automobiles to Louis Vuitton handbags as they spend some of the cash they earned fuelling their countries' recent rapid economic growth.

"The Japanese are now more interested in enjoying their life," said Toshio Yamasaki, economist at the Bank of Tokyo.

They aren't alone. According to Thai commercials, the "ideal person" carries a golf club in one hand, a portable telephone in another, wears a Gucci shirt and lives in a two-storey house complete with a microwave oven.

"People in these countries are becoming more and more interested in buying consumer goods such as electric appliances and cars," Yamasaki said.

And their companies are becoming more and more in-

terested in supplying those goods domestically, rather than shipping them abroad.

That is good news for the United States, which has been pressing the countries in the region to cut their trade surpluses by spending more at home and buying more imports.

"The catch phrase (in Japan) has changed from 'export or die' to 'import and buy'," said Stephen Usher, research executive for Broker Kleinwort Benson International in Tokyo.

The consumer boom started in Japan, then spread to the region's newly industrialising economies — Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan — and Thailand.

For the most part, the region's thrifty workers are not saving much less. The average Taiwanese, for example, still puts away more than a third of his earnings.

But because of the area's rapid economic growth, East Asians are now earning more and have that much more to spend, economists said. Wages in both South Korea and Taiwan are rising at a double-

digit pace as workers turn more militant employers more generous.

"People in Taiwan are getting richer and becoming big spenders," said Chen Yun-How, manager of the Far Eastern Department Store Company in Taipei.

"We have sold more cameras and television sets since July than in the entire (1987)," said Patrick Dass, sales representative of Perama Stamford Electronics in Singapore.

Boosted buying power

In the annual round of wage increases in May Japanese workers are expected to get more than five per cent more in their pay packets, economists said. With inflation near zero, that should translate into a big increase in their buying power.

"The domestic economy is expected to continue to grow, mainly led by consumer spending and corporate capital investment," said Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Company.

Sales in Japan of both domestic and imported cars zoomed to record levels last year and are expected to do so

again in 1989.

Most of the imports are luxury cars from Europe. "European manufacturers have studied the Japanese market," explained Michio Watanabe, a policy-maker in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

High-priced imports are also catching on elsewhere in the region, partly because they are perceived as status symbols.

The rapid rise in the currencies of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan has also made some imports cheaper and more accessible to the man-in-the-street.

"If it's got a French name on it, it will sell," said Myrick Hatch, Taiwan managing director of broker Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers.

"They prefer to buy better imported cars than local ones," added Michael Chen, president of Taipei car dealer Pento United Motor Company.

In Hong Kong, even the Chinese emporiums, traditionally a source of cheap, utilitarian goods made in China, have been forced to move up-market. Out went the abacus and in came electronic tills,

along with Japanese stereos and Italian leatherware.

"There's been a real shift in what Hong Kong people consume and the way they consume it," said Jonathan Stone, research director for Asia at Broker CL Alexanders Laing and Cruickshank Securities (HK) Ltd.

In Thailand, the traditional bargaining system at local markets has given way to fixed-price department stores and supermarkets that have sprung up throughout the country.

Once deprived of fine wines by import restrictions and banned from smoking foreign cigarettes by law, South Koreans are attacking consumer goods with the gusto of a starved nation.

They line up at the doors of plush department stores before opening time to buy high priced imports as well as increasingly more expensive domestic goods.

"I can't understand how they can afford this stuff, but they do," one department store executive said. "I can't buy anything in my own store, it's so expensive."

Greenspan says U.S. inflation not accelerating significantly

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. economy is showing no sign inflation is rising significantly but fighting inflationary pressures remains a priority, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in remarks published Sunday.

"What I am saying at this particular stage... is that inflation is not currently showing any significant acceleration," Greenspan told the New York Times.

"But having said that, it is not at all helpful in determining what policy stance one should take," he said.

"It really is important that we lean over backward, so to speak, to make certain that we don't allow inflation pressures to emerge."

Greenspan, who as head of the U.S. central bank sets policy independent of the White House



Alan Greenspan

and Congress to slow or stoke the economy, said despite the lack of danger signs the Fed's main con-

cern remained staying on top of inflation.

"The central focus of what we are doing at the Fed is to keep inflation from accelerating — and preferably decelerating," he said.

Greenspan said a "sea change" had taken place since the days of rampant inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s and that he believed wage and price pressures were unlikely to once again fuel an inflationary spiral.

He said one common misconception of inflation failed to take into account how inexpensive it is to manufacture abroad for U.S. consumption, which he said alleviated domestic shortages due to inflation without adding much to the trade deficit.

Another misconception was the failure to realise the prime concern of U.S. labour now was job security, not higher wages.

Brazil maps out anti-inflation plan

BRASILIA, Brazil (Agencies) — The Brazilian government Sunday was to formally announce its latest economic and administrative reform package aimed at curbing chronic high inflation and government deficits, the Brazilian press reported.

President Jose Sarney and his economic advisers Saturday put the finishing touches on the so-called "summer plan," a package that includes a 45-day price freeze on some 200 basic commodities, a reshuffling of top cabinet ministers, and layoffs of up to 60,000 civil servants, according to the Rio newspaper Jornal do Brasil.

The government also announced a bank holiday for Monday to allow banks to prepare for the package, the fourth anti-inflation plan since Sarney took office in 1985 as the first civilian president after 21 years of military rule.

In addition, the government Saturday scrapped a measure to devalue by 10 per cent the cruzeiro, the Brazilian currency, the nation's largest TV network O Globo reported Saturday.

The reform will also phase out monthly monetary correction, in which wages, rents commercial payments and government interest rates are adjusted to keep pace with inflation.

Instead, salaries would be

readjusted each month on the basis of the average annual correction for inflation during 1988, the TV network said.

Brazil's inflation rate hit an all-time-high annual rate of 933 per cent in 1988, compared with 1987's 366 per cent.

In addition, the country's economy is stagnating, with gross national product of some \$300 billion up just 0.04 per cent in 1988, according to government figures.

Leaders of Brazil's largest unions, who estimate that consumer buying power has dipped 40 per cent during the past year, had threatened to call a general strike if the government did not offer an anti-inflationary package by this week.

The struggle against inflation in Brazil began in February of 1986, when with the cost of living increases at 255 per cent, Sarney declared a wage-price freeze, and implemented a new currency, the cruzeiro.

But the so-called "cruzeiro plan" eventually led to black marketeering, hoarding, product shortages, and temporary moratorium of foreign debt interest payments to large U.S. and European banks.

Sarney appointed his third finance minister, moderate Mailson da Nobrega, dropped the



Jose Sarney

moratorium in 1988 and took a more conciliatory attitude towards the International Monetary Fund, whose approval is generally needed for major overseas private and government loans.

Foreign banks subsequently approved a long-term debt-refinancing programme last September for Brazil involving some \$82 billion.

In the meantime, the Sarney government is attempting to secure stand by funds from U.S. lenders as a key part of its economic package. Brazilian Ambassador Marcilio Marques Moreira met with lenders in Washington this week for talks designed to obtain \$4 billion in new credits for 1989.

Brazil is the Third World's leading debtor nation, owing \$115 billion in foreign debt, more than a third of its GNP, according to government figures.

Oman expects non-OPEC accord with OPEC

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's oil minister said Saturday he believed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other oil-producing states would reach an agreement aimed at raising and stabilising world oil prices.

"I know from my colleagues in non-OPEC countries that they are willing to cooperate with OPEC," the minister, said Ihsan Ahmad Al Shanfari, told Reuters.

"I believe that we will have an agreement... definitely we will have an agreement," he added in

reply to a question on whether the two groups could agree on measures to boost prices.

Shanfari met Subroto, secretary-general of OPEC, in Muscat Thursday to discuss cooperation between the 13-member group and other producer countries.

Oman, though not a member of OPEC, has coordinated its oil policy with OPEC in the past by cutting output to help efforts to achieve market stability.

Experts from six OPEC and eight non-OPEC countries will meet in London Jan. 26 for talks to prepare the ground for a min-

isterial meeting between the two groups.

Non-OPEC Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, North Yemen and Oman will take part in discussions with OPEC members Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Subroto told reporters Thursday that eight oil-producing states from the United States and Canada's Alberta province might also be represented and he hoped the Soviet Union would attend.

Shanfari, who was to leave for Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet officials, said: "I will take the chance to ask our friends where in what ways we can cooperate. I have nothing to propose."

He said non-OPEC countries should not expect OPEC to make all the moves to stabilise prices, which fell last year more than \$7 below OPEC's target price of \$18 a barrel.

"It is our time (non-OPEC) to help them (OPEC) because the indication from OPEC is that they have a strong interest among themselves to keep the price of oil reasonable," he said.

Spot market prices have recovered more than \$4 a barrel since November on indications that OPEC members are sticking to new lower output limits.

Zimbabwe says fresh efforts needed to address African debt

HARARE (R) — Fresh efforts will be needed in 1989 to solve the debt problems of sub-Saharan Africa, which risk being overshadowed by worries about Latin America, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero said.

"I don't think that the efforts which have been made so far... come anywhere near to meeting the gravity and enormity of the African debt," he said in an interview.

The minister presides over the development committee of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. His country has kept up with its debt payments and avoided rescheduling.

He said the African debt was relatively small in absolute terms: "You are talking about \$125-140 billion in sub-Saharan Africa. That sounds very small when you compare it to the Brazilian debt or the Mexican debt."

But African economies were very fragile and suffering from very low growth and low commodity prices, he said. Last year, despite healthy growth of 3.5 per cent in the industrialised countries, African economies again failed to grow in per capita terms.

Chidzero said middle-income African countries such as Zimbabwe had been largely forgotten amid concern over heavily indebted countries, most of which are in Latin America.

He said many African countries were still facing a net outflow of resources, despite efforts to improve the IMF's enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF). The World Bank's special programme of assistance (SPA) and bilateral aid.

He pointed out that some African countries such as Zambia, which jettisoned its IMF-approved recovery programme in 1987, were outside the scope of present debt relief efforts and were building up big arrears to the IMF and the World Bank.

Zambia's total debts of around \$4.3 billion are equivalent to three or four times its gross national product (GNP) — a ratio 10 times worse than that of Brazil.

"I have the uneasy feeling that the world will have to recognise that sooner or later these debts have to be written off," he said.

Debts to the IMF and the

World Bank cannot be rescheduled, a fact which Chidzero described as a major problem. He said some formula might be found to enable such countries as Zambia to qualify as LDCs (least developed countries).

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Debts to the IMF and the

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, Jan. 15, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.5 383.4
U.S. dollar	486.0	488.0	Dutch guilder	233.4 234.6
Pound Sterling	858.1	862.4	Swedish crown	71.2 71.6
Deutschemark	263.3	264.6	Italian lira (for 100)	25.9 26.1
Swiss franc	308.6	310.1	Belgian franc (for 100)	125.8 126.4
French franc	77.5	77.9		

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Yugoslavia, Iraq discuss trade

BAGHDAD (R) — Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Janez Zemljic held talks with Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh in Baghdad on expanding trade between their countries, the Baghdad Observer reported Sunday. It said Yugoslavia imported of Iraqi crude oil and chemical products were worth \$240 million in 1988, while exporting machinery, foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals in return. Dozens of Yugoslav firms and about 10,000 workers are involved in development projects in Iraq, including a multibillion dollar dam in northern Iraq, telephone networks for more than 60 towns and an oil refinery in central Iraq.

Iran to sell tractor spare parts

NICOSIA (AP) — Britain will purchase £5 million worth of spare parts for Massey Ferguson tractors from the Iran Tractor Manufacturing Plant, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. A plant official told IRNA that Turkey concluded a \$4.5 million contract and it will import 32 per cent of the purchased amount by the end of the current Islamic year (March 20). Talks have also been held with Bulgaria, Sudan, Syria, Brazil and Zimbabwe and export plans to those countries are under study, said IRNA. The plant is currently undergoing expansion at a cost of \$182 million, and when finished, will produce 30,000 tractors per year. About 75 per cent of production will be devoted to spare parts, IRNA said. The tractor plant was established in Tabriz in 1967 with an economic and technical agreement with Romania.

Bombay bullion dealers close shops

BOMBAY (R) — Bullion dealers, jewellers and goldsmiths are on a three-day closure of shops in India's financial centre Bombay beginning Friday to protest against what they called harassment from customs officials. Shantilal Sonawala, president of the Bombay Bullion Association, said the closing in Bombay would also cripple bullion trading across the country. Sonawala said the protest was triggered by over-zealous officials trying to curb gold smuggling. "Officials are not only seizing documents from dealers but are insisting on producing the sellers of gold before them as proof, which is very embarrassing to the public," he said. Dealers were afraid of buying gold even from genuine sellers, he said. The price of gold shot up to 3,340 rupees (\$223) per 10 grammes Jan. 12 from 3,150 (\$210) a month ago. The record is 3,600 rupees (\$240), reached in November 1987. India stopped the import of gold 40 years ago. India's annual demand has been estimated at more than 200 tonnes, with only a third of it met through re-cycled gold and smuggling accounting for the rest, trade sources said.

Turkish paper industry strike ends

ISTANBUL (R) — A four-month strike by more than 10,000 workers in Turkey's state-owned paper industry ended on Saturday with a deal that more than doubled their pay, the Anatolian news agency said. It said work would resume Monday with average net wages and benefits at 358,000 (\$194) a month, up from 119,000 lira (then about \$85) last year. Remuneration at the eight paper and cardboard plants of the state-owned Saka group would rise to 473,000 lira (\$255) a month from the beginning of next year. The strike that began on Sept. 6 was one of a record 500 in different industries in 1988, when consumer price inflation reached an annual 75 per cent.

Japan to halt aid to Burma

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government had decided to suspend a 927 million-yen (\$7.4 million) grant to Burma because it is under military rule, the Foreign Ministry said. The grant, approved by the government last July, however, has not yet been provided to Burma because of political unrest that broke out there last September, the ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said the decision was made because the Japanese government has not recognised the administration of Prime Minister Saw Maung as the legitimate government and because Burma remains under military rule. Maung took power after a September coup.

Del Monte expected to be sold

MIAMI (R) — The chairman of Del Monte Foods was quoted as saying the giant food company would probably be sold to help pay for the \$25 billion takeover of its corporate parent, RJR/Nabisco Inc. by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. The Miami Herald said Robert Carbonell told a meeting of Coral Gables, Florida, businessmen he believed it was likely Del Monte would be corporate history next month. Carbonell emphasised, however, this was his personal opinion and not that of RJR/Nabisco, a food and cigarette conglomerate. Del Monte, based in Coral Gables, had sales of around \$2.5 billion last year and pre-tax profits of what will be sold and those decisions will not take place for some time," Carbonell said.

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Uganda wants Amin back

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda is to step up diplomatic pressure for the extradition of former dictator Idi Amin from neighbouring Zaïre, government sources said Sunday.

The Kampala government wants to question the deposed leader, who slipped out of exile in Saudi Arabia early this month, about human rights abuses and killings.

Officials say Amin could face charges relating to his eight-year rule from 1971 when hundreds of thousands of Ugandans are estimated to have died in massacres.

Amin fled to Kinshasa from Saudi Arabia, where he had been living in exile since being driven out of Uganda in 1979. Zairean authorities said he used a false Zairean passport to fly there via Nigeria and Gabon.

Zaire refused to allow Amin to enter the country, and flew him to Senegal in a private jet, to enable him to catch a Saudi Arabian flight from there last week.

But Saudi authorities, apparently refusing to accept him back, barred Amin from boarding the plane in Dakar and he was returned to Kinshasa in the Zairean jet.

Zaire says it is looking for a country to take Amin, 61, the former army boxing champion



Yoweri Museveni

who became one of Africa's most ruthless dictators.

African diplomats in Kampala said President Mobutu Sese Seku's government was embarrassed by Amin's arrival there, and placed in a dilemma by Saudi Arabia's apparent refusal to allow him to return to Jeddah.

Uganda's first request last week for Amin's extradition was turned down because there is no extradition treaty with Zaire, government sources said.

But President Yoweri Museveni told reporters Saturday that Uganda would continue to press for Amin's return here.

Officials in Kampala said Uganda wants to put Amin before a government commission inquiring into human rights abuses during his rule.

Witnesses have already told the commission that Amin was personally involved in the murder of Anglican Archbishop Janani Lumum in 1977 and in many massacres.

Moscow takes over Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities have decided to put the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh under central control after nearly a year of ethnic clashes.

The solution was seen as partly satisfying Armenian demands in their dispute with Azerbaijan over the territory and could remove an impediment to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika programme of economic and political reforms.

A decree issued Saturday and carried by the TASS news agency dissolves local government in the territory, the focus of 11 months of ethnic tension.

At least 78 people have died in Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Soviet Union's southern fringe. Forty-three were killed in the latest flare-up in November and December and tens of

thousands fled their homes.

The decree, drawn up at a meeting last Thursday of the country's highest state body, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, places Nagorno-Karabakh under the control of a committee responsible to central authorities.

The committee, headed by special Kremlin envoy Arkady Volzky, is to assume full legislative and executive powers in addition to controlling virtually all aspects of day-to-day life — industry, administration, education and the media.

Volzky was sent to investigate the situation in the territory last summer and has denounced lead-

Solution seen as gain for Armenians

ers of both Armenia and Azerbaijan for failing to halt the violence.

The measures, to go into effect Jan. 20, were described as temporary. But the decree did not say how long they would remain in force in the territory, populated mainly by Armenians but run by Azerbaijan since 1923.

Placing Nagorno-Karabakh virtually under Moscow's control was seen as satisfying at least partly Armenian demands, though the territory at least nominally remains a part of Azerbaijan.

After Azerbaijan and then the Kremlin last year rejected Nagorno-Karabakh's calls to be transferred to Armenia, some Armenians suggested the territory

could be run by the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

The decree also empowered Volzky's committee to dissolve public and independent organisations violating Soviet laws or the constitution.

This provision appeared aimed at the Karabakh Committee, which has spearheaded the Armenian demands for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The strife in the Transcaucasus spilled over into most aspects of Soviet life in the past year and Gorbachev has warned it could adversely affect forthcoming multi-candidate elections — a key element in his reforms.

The Soviet leadership has repeatedly alleged that much of the violence was fomented by corrupt elements whose positions were threatened by perestroika.



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Train collision kills 106 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — An express passenger train carrying worshippers to a religious festival collided with a mail train in central Bangladesh Sunday, killing at least 106 people and injuring 1,000 others, officials said.

One senior railway official said the accident, the worst ever in Bangladesh, may have occurred because operators did not know how to work a signal system installed last week.

The express train, bound for the southern port city of Chittagong, and the Dhaka-bound mail train rammed each other near the industrial town of Tongi, about 45 kilometres north of the capital, authorities said.

Police and railway officials estimate about 2,000 people

were involved in the accident, but were uncertain how many were aboard each train because people in south Asia frequently ride on top of or stand between the cars.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, and the government ordered an investigation.

But one senior railway official said he suspected operators at the Dhaka and Tongi stations were unfamiliar with the signalling system installed Jan. 10.

"Human failure and wrong signalling may have caused the two trains to come on the same track, leading to the collision," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

About 250 army soldiers holding winter military exer-

cises nearby were dispatched to help rescue those trapped inside the wreckage and to help take the injured to hospitals in Dhaka.

"I saw coaches flying up to 15 feet as the collision occurred," said one soldier, who did not want to be identified.

"It was a terrible scene with hundreds of passengers — men, women and children — shouting for help."

Soldiers and rescue workers had recovered 100 bodies, according to a senior railway official, speaking on condition of anonymity. But Communications Secretary Manzuraql Karim told reporters at the scene that only 73 bodies had been found.

In addition, a doctor at the disabled hospital in Dhaka said six people had died there from among 45 injured brought in for treatment after the accident.

The two diesel locomotives were knocked off the tracks and two coach cars from each train derailed, witnesses said. Several bodies were thrown into nearby rice paddies, they said.

"Hundreds of bodies were lined up on both sides of the two shattered trains," said Syed Sirajul Huq, a businessman from Chittagong who suffered minor injuries in the crash.

"The cries of the injured for help and people look desperately for their dear ones accompanying them made me cry. It

was so pathetic," he said.

According to police and railway officials, the two trains collided near the Pubail railway station at about 7:30 a.m. (0230 GMT). The passenger train was travelling at about 80 kilometres an hour, while the mail train was coming to a halt, they said.

"There was a big bang," Huq said. "My compartment leaped heavily on the left when suddenly a divine hand stopped it."

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and other top railway and government officials went to the accident scene to supervise the rescue operation.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tito's widow loses case

BELGRADE (AP) — The widow of late President Josip Broz Tito has lost an appeal for the revision of a Belgrade court ruling over her inheritance, a press report said Saturday. The Belgrade daily Vecernje Novosti said the Supreme Court of Serbia rejected her demand for the revision and instructed her that she could pursue the matter with the Yugoslav state to prove that some of the items of Tito's estate indeed belong to her. Tito died in 1980. Mrs. Broz filed a suit in 1985 to gain from Tito's estate what she claimed were her personal belongings, such as paintings, books, furs, jewelry and furniture. A ruling in 1986 said all Tito's estate was state property.

Ethiopian rebels kill 137

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Saturday they killed 137 government soldiers and captured four when they attacked an army convoy trying to open a main road in northern Tigray province. The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), monitored in Nairobi, said the fighting took place Monday near Mekele, capital of Tigray, on the main road to Addis Ababa. The TPLF did not give its own casualties. Earlier this week the TPLF, fighting for autonomy of Tigray, reported similar clashes near Mekele and said 272 government soldiers had been killed.

2 bombs blast in Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Several soldiers and civilians were injured when bombs exploded in Belfast and Londonderry near military patrols, police said. In the first of two Saturday night attacks, a soldier and two civilians were hurt when a bomb exploded near Duomisk Park in a residential section of predominantly Catholic west Belfast, a police spokesman said. One woman was treated for shock at a hospital and released. A man and a soldier were receiving treatment but their injuries were not believed to be serious, said the police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity. The area was cordoned off after the explosion just before 11:00 p.m. (2300 GMT), and experts were examining a second device found in the vicinity, he said, adding that a British army patrol had been in the area during the explosion. The bomb in Londonderry, 110 kilometres northeast of Belfast, exploded at about 11:45 p.m. (2345 GMT) in the city's central business district, said a police spokeswoman.

Tamil children seek asylum

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss authorities registered a sharply higher inflow of 16,726 seekers of political asylum last year, including hundreds of unaccompanied Tamil minors from Sri Lanka, a government spokesman said Friday. Related to Switzerland's total population of 6.5 million, the inflow — marking an increase by 53 per cent over 1987 — was believed to be the largest in Western Europe. West Germany, with a population of 61 million, reported 103,076 asylum seekers last year.

Bomb joker arrested

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A man was arrested at the Philadelphia airport Saturday after making a joke about a bomb as he was buying a ticket, police said. As the unidentified man in his mid-thirties was purchasing a ticket for a Northwest Airlines flight to Minneapolis, he quipped: "I want the window seat away from the bomb," police Sergeant Thomas Harkins said. "He thinks he's a comedian but the ticket attendant doesn't." Harkins said. The attendant called the pilot, who ordered that the plane be searched, Harkins said.

Violence — biggest challenge to Aquino

MANILA (AP) — Filipinos sat fixated before their television sets last weekend as soldiers stormed a military camp with automatic weapons and rockets — not fighting communist rebels, but renegade police.

Lter, the hottest topic of newspaper and broadcast commentators was a report that hundreds of Uzi machine guns and Galil rifles were being imported into a country already awash with weapons. The importer wasn't some underground arms merchant, but the Philippines' House of Representatives.

The two episodes underscore the challenge President Corazon Aquino faces trying to build a modern, progressive nation from a country caught in the corrupt, violent ways of the past.

The United States, which maintains six military bases here and is committed to helping build democracy, has a substantial stake in her success.

Last week, U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed doubling aid to the Philippines to \$649.4 million at a time when assistance to other nations is being held in check or reduced.

But persistent problems in the 105,000-member armed forces were highlighted by the recent

three-day takeover of the regional headquarters of the Philippine constabulary in Zamboanga City, 900 kilometres south of Manila. On Jan. 5, about 15 Muslim police and their supporters, angry over plans to charge them in a 1984 killing, seized the garrison, killing the commander and his chief of staff.

The renegades then held out against a furious military assault by nearly 1,000 troops. By the time the garrison was secured Jan. 7, 21 people were dead, all of them renegades, except for the two military officers slain during the initial takeover. But the leader of the renegades, Rizal Alih, escaped somehow during the assault, which destroyed the regional headquarters.

It was the second major garrison destroyed in 18 months during military operations against dissident soldiers or police.

The general staff headquarters in Manila was gutted during the August 1987 coup attempt by renegade Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan. No major headquarters has been destroyed in clashes with communist or rebels since Aquino took office in 1986.

Most Manila television stations, which rarely report events



Corazon Aquino

outside the capital, dispatched crews to Zamboanga City.

Dramatic film footage of soldiers battling police shocked residents of the capital, many of whom are largely insulated from violence in the countryside.

"The inconclusive result is now viewed by a shocked nation as using a sledgehammer to swat a fly," wrote columnist Jesus Bignoria in the Manila Bulletin newspaper.

Belgium-Zaire row worsens

BRUSSELS (R) — Relations have worsened between Zaire and Belgium which condemned its former colony for renouncing friendship and cooperation treaties between them.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said after a cabinet crisis meeting Saturday that Zaire's decision to cancel the \$1.2 billion debt was totally unjustified.

He said his government would not fund any new development projects in Zaire and would take legal action for its violation of a bilateral air accord.

Zaire had told the Belgian state-owned airline Sabena to halve its four weekly flights from Brussels to Kinshasa.

"The government deplores the unilateral character of the changes made by Zaire to its ties with Belgium," Martens told a news conference.

The response was Belgium's toughest yet in the two-month-old row. Brussels had previously tried to use diplomatic means to settle the dispute, sparked by Belgian press criticism of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's alleged corruption and lavish lifestyle.

"Up till now the government has maintained an exemplary silence not wanting to do anything too harsh, but after the Zairean declaration we had to make the Belgian position known," Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said.

The row worsened despite Mobutu's acceptance last week of Belgian proposals for a joint high-level conference in April in Kinshasa to set guidelines for future relations.

Martens said Belgium was still prepared to attend the conference but would only do so in a "favourable climate" where both sides had something to offer.

Belgium would not discuss Zaire's claims that it had behaved in a neo-colonialist fashion and reneged on cooperation treaties since granting Zaire independence in 1960, he said.

But later Saturday the official Zairean news agency AZAP said if Belgium was not prepared to discuss the claims there was no point in meeting.

The dispute began after suggestions in the Belgian press that Mobutu had pocketed some of the five billion francs (\$130 million) in Belgian aid given annually to the central African country.

Public mistrust plagues today's scientists

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Scientists are living in a period of extraordinary accomplishment but face growing public mistrust of their work, a major scientific organisation was told Saturday.

"The good news is that by any intellectual measure our science has never been more vigorous, nor has it ever offered more hope for future advances," Stanford University President Donald Kennedy said in a keynote address to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

(AAAS). Kennedy, a biologist who headed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under President Jimmy Carter, said in remarks prepared for the six-day meeting that scientists were in a position "unparalleled in our history" to make discoveries that will improve the human condition.

He listed recent advances in numerous fields, ranging from genetic engineering to superconductivity.

But, Kennedy said: "... despite

an abundance of good will and a truly extraordinary record of contemporary success, science in contemporary America finds itself in the midst of a paradox — a situation in which its work, however empathetic with public need, finds itself inhibited by public mistrust."

Kennedy said institutions doing basic research encounter repeated blockades to adequate funding. He criticised a provision of the 1986 tax reform that reduced the incentive for individuals to make capital gifts to scientific

institutions and restricted the access of private research universities to the tax-exempt bond market.

Suggesting solutions to the problem, Kennedy said scientists need to deal in a more straightforward manner with misconceptions about the nature of science and its focus.

"We all recognise, and occasionally do battle with, the creationists, the right-to-life advocates who would ban all forms of research with foetal tissues, the animal liberation

crowd," he said. "But we don't give it much of our time unless we are especially threatened."

Kennedy warned his scientific colleagues against promising more results than they could realistically deliver to their benefactors.

Some 10,000 scientists, including a delegation of top Soviet scientists, were gathering here for the 155th annual meeting of the AAAS, which has 130,000 members in nearly 300 affiliated societies and academies.

Bye, bye Nancy, hello Barbara

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The inauguration of George Bush brings much more than a change in government. It's the launch of a whole new look — a look that is prompting signs of relief among graying women and men's clothing retailers who never met a brown suit they liked.

Barbara Bush is keeping her inaugural outfit a secret, at least until the last minute.

But a few things are certain. Her favourite colour is blue — so farwell to scarlet, the colour so identified with Nancy Reagan that reporters wore it to press conferences in an effort to attract her husband's attention.

Farwell, too, to designer Adolfo, another favourite of Mrs. Reagan. Mrs. Bush prefers Bill Blass and Arnold Scaasi, Diane Dickinson and Adele Simpson. She's having several designers put together her inaugural wardrobe.

"There's no doubt in my mind that she'll look spectacular from head to toe, but it will be a different style (from Nancy Reagan)," said Mrs. Bush's spokeswoman, Sondra Haley.

"She'll have her own style."

When he takes his oath of office Jan. 20, President-elect Bush will be wearing a business suit — possibly one in dark oxford gray he purchased within the last two weeks from Arthur A. Adler, a men's store a few blocks from the White House.

Vice President-elect Dan Quayle also bought a couple of suits from Adler last week — one navy blue, the other a navy stripe.

"If I were to guess, I would say the solid navy for the swearing-in," said store manager David Sheffell.

"No browns, no tans. These gentlemen know what colours do the most for them, and that's why they're sticking with the blues and grays," Sheffell added.

Ronald Reagan's penchant for brown didn't do much for Sheffell, who linked it to fashion preferences in Reagan's home state.

"Mr. Reagan never got away from the California look," Sheffell said diplomatically, in a recent interview. "Bush is a traditional dresser, which stems back from his time at Yale (university)."

Bush and Reagan wore traditional tails to the swearing-in in 1981, but they shifted to business suits in 1985. Bush "is more comfortable in a business suit," said spokeswoman Alix Glen.

"Also, all of the members of Congress are going to be dressed in suits as well. He didn't want to feel overdressed."

Washington's boutiques and department stores are in an inaugural merchandising frenzy, their bunting-draped windows filled with crisp tuxedos, bright full-skirted gowns and sparkling rhinestone evening bags.

"People are buying long dresses, very elaborate, a lot of full skirts, bright colours as well as black. 'It's been pretty hectic,'" said Renee Rizik, part owner of Rizik's, a downtown specialty store in the heart of the high-priced shopping district.

Gowns were on sale for half-price at the Elizabeth Arden Salon across the street from Rizik's. Black sequins, emerald taffeta, red velvet, white satin. Full skirts, tight bodices, spaghetti straps, no straps. Some of them \$1,500 — after reduction.

"The sales are in timing with the balls, which makes it easier on everybody," said saleswoman Peggy O'Connor, in an interview. "They're buying bright colours because it's a happy time — reds and blues."

One Night Stand

For those who don't have \$1,500 to blow on a ball gown, Joanna Doniger has opened a temporary branch of her New York establishment, One Night Stand, at a suburban Holiday

Inn. The room is lined with gowns; she brought 250 to rent for one night only at prices ranging from \$175 to \$350. Necklaces go for \$20, earrings for \$10.

"People are dressing up much more than they were 10 years ago, but who wants to go out and spend a couple of thousand dollars for a dress?" Doniger asked airily between appointments.

"We probably see about 20 people a day. We can always fit people in as long as we know they are coming."

One Night Stand may be a godsend for high society types, but the more traditional couture customers are frequenting their usual haunt — places like Neiman-Marcus. A week before the balls, the uptown branch of the fancy department store had sold 100 gowns and was anticipating an additional five or 10 sales to last-minute shoppers.

"We're selling a very full ball type of gown," said public relations manager Juana Stockwell.



Barbara Bush

"A lot of people thought it (the Bush inauguration) would be more understated, but we haven't really seen a change."

Playing on the U.S. flag theme, Neiman-Marcus has developed a \$1,200 pair of shoes called "The Stars and Stripes Shoe," a white satin slip pump covered with pave rhinestones in red, white and blue, configured in stars and stripes. Stockwell said only one pair had been sold, by a branch in



Nancy Reagan

Texas. Another inaugural special, also going begging, was a \$7,000 eagle brooch in honour of the American eagle, encrusted with gems.

"This would be perfect for Barbara Bush," said Stockwell. "It really would, because of the eagle, and although it's all precious jewels, it's an understated piece of jewelry and it's really elegant."

COLUMN

'Walker policy' backs marriage

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge agreed to lower the bond of a man accused of robbery on condition that he marry his common-law wife and attend church. State district Judge Carl Walker dropped Zachery Ellis' bond from \$20,000 to \$10,000 and told him he must marry Shawna Jackson, 18, if his family can raise the money. Walker has taken the action in other cases involving unmarried people who have children. Ellis is the father of two of Jackson's children, ages two and seven months, the judge said. "It's a Walker policy," the judge said later. "If you can father the child, you ought to legitimise the child."

Rwanda garners most tickets

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Rwanda's U.N. mission has five cars that collect more parking tickets per vehicle than any mission in New York. The city parking violations bureau said Friday. Sudan, Bahrain, the Ivory Coast and Seychelles rounded out the list of the top five parking scofflaws, according to bureau figures. The Soviet Union, with 110 vehicles, was not among the top 20 offenders. The U.S. mission does not issue diplomatic plates to its employees, and did not appear on the list. Consular and U.N. diplomats enjoy diplomatic immunity, and cannot be compelled to pay parking tickets. However, the parking violations bureau keeps track of the number of vehicles with diplomatic plates assigned to a country and how many tickets the nation receives each month.

'Friday the 13th' virus strikes

LONDON (AP) — A "Friday the 13th" computer virus struck personal computers in Britain Friday, wiping out program files and annoying businesses, a computer expert said. The 13th day of a month that falls on a Friday is considered unlucky or a bad omen among some communities in some countries. Hundreds of personal computer users found the virus was programmed to delete files Friday the 13th, said Alan Solomon, managing director of S and S Enterprises, a data recovery centre in Chesham.

Church offers prizes for brighter graves

HELSINKI (R) — Church authorities in Finland, seeking to brighten up graveyards, are offering cash prizes for new designs for tombstones. The Evangelical Lutheran Church said many mass-produced tombstones all took the same. The church is teaming up with an industrial design group to launch a competition to find the best new designs using ceramic, stone, wood or metal.

Six million-knot carpet finished

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A carpet with six million hand-woven knots, believed to be a record number in each centimetre, has been completed in the Iranian city of Tabriz. The Islamic Republic news agency reported Saturday. The carpet, measuring one metre by 1.5 metres was made with 800 colours and took two years to complete, said IRNA monitored in Nicosia. The carpet will go on display at the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution next month. The carpet was woven by Tabriz's three Nezam-Doust brothers, who based their design on a miniature painting of the fifth day of creation — the day God created birds, fish and sea monsters, according to the Bible.

Flying mattress whisks man to safety

CRYSTAL LAKE, Illinois (AP) — A flying mattress carried a 79-year-old man to safety as his suburban home was levelled by a natural gas explosion, authorities and the man said. The incident occurred Thursday morning as James Steurer sat on his bed, putting on shoes in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake. Moments later, Steurer recalled afterward, he was still sitting on his mattress — outside on the driveway, blown out a side wall of his home by the force of the gas explosion. "I landed outside, picked up my mattress and it was on fire so I tried to put it out," he said. "What could you think at that point?" "Absolutely I'm lucky," said Steurer as firefighters searched through the remains of his \$50,000 wood-frame home for clues to the cause of the strange occurrence.